

## Summer Reading

One of the most delicious aspects of summer is the slowing down of the pace of our lives and having a bit more time to enjoy activities like reading for pleasure. We certainly hope all Seymour families put summer reading high on their list of recreational priorities. Just like the extra physical activities we are able to do in the summer, reading for pleasure, is actually good for us, especially for children. Studies have found that the one true predictor of future academic and career success is the independent reading habit.



So spend some time this summer at our beautiful Seymour Public Library or take a trip to the bookstore to find a book that fits just right. There are so many choices! Reading lists can give you some ideas, but in fact, you have to try on a book, just like you'd try on a piece of clothing. Here are some tips: Read the jacket summary, check out the pictures and even try reading a few paragraphs to see if a book "grabs" you, before you grab it, off the shelf. Reading a few paragraphs will also let you know if a book is too easy, too difficult or just right for you.

I've attached some lists to get help parents and kids get started, but there are many great lists out there on the Internet, which can give you more detail. Here are some Internet Sites to find great books:

- The Book Hive: Your Guide to Children's Literature and Books.  
[www.bookhive.org](http://www.bookhive.org)
- *NEA Teacher's Top 100 Books for Kids* (Teacher Favorites—They took a poll...)  
[www.nea.org/readacross/resources/catalist.html](http://www.nea.org/readacross/resources/catalist.html)
- *Oprah's Book Club for Kids*  
[www.oprah.com/obc/kids](http://www.oprah.com/obc/kids)
- *American Library Association* (which has list and summaries of all the Newbery, Caldecott and other children's book award winners)  
[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

Remember to keep track of the books you read for the Governor's Reading Program.



Mrs. Kirkland